

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY China
 SUBJECT Economic - Forestry, timber industry
 HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical
 WHERE PUBLISHED Moscow
 DATE PUBLISHED Jul 1950
 LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 30 Dec 1950

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Lesnaya Promyshlennost', No 7, 1950TIMBER RESOURCES AND TIMBER INDUSTRY OF CHINA

K. T. Senchurov

Resources

Some parts of China are rich in timber, but most populated and industrially developed areas have little. In the course of time, China's forests were destroyed and she was forced to import a very considerable amount of her timber supply from other countries.

China's forested areas total about 90 million hectares, or 9 percent of her total area. This low percentage is explained partly by the fact that a large part of China is desert, but mostly by the fact that the forests were depleted over the centuries.

Large forests are to be found only in Manchuria, in the Ch'in-ling Shan, in the Nan Shan, and in the provinces of Kiangsi, Hunan, and Szechwan; there is some timber in Tibet, in Sinkiang, and on Taiwan.

In eastern China, all timberland consists of replanted forests. These forests are made up of such quickly growing species as poplar (Populus), willow (Salix), acacia (Acacia), and others.

According to area, the timber resources of China are distributed as follows:

<u>Province</u>	<u>Forested Area</u> (million ha)	<u>Percent of Total Area</u>
Central China	40.5	7.5
Manchuria	35.5	36.0
Sinkiang	8.2	5.0
Taiwan	2.6	72.0
Tibet	1.8	2.0

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL	
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI	

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

A peculiarity of Chinese forests is the diversity of species in them; these include coniferous, deciduous, and tropical trees. Tropical trees grow mainly south of the Yangtze and in Szechwan and southern Kiangsi.

Manchuria is the most heavily forested region in China. The vegetation of this region approximates that of Siberia. Eastern Manchuria has the richest and most diversified forest growth, intertwined with liana (a thick Manchurian grape). Manchurian trees include cedar (*Cedrus*), fir (*Abies*), spruce (*Picea*), poplar (*Populus*), Amur cork tree (*Phellodendron amurense*), oak (*Quercus*), maple (*Acer*), ash (*Fraxinus*), birch (*Betula*), aspen (*Populus tremula*), walnut (*Juglans*), linden (*Tilia*), etc. Luxuriant meadows with numerous flowers grow in the valleys. The largest sawmills and woodworking enterprises in China are located in Manchuria.

Deciduous species predominate in Central China. Central China has three main forest regions:

1. The Ch'in-ling region (Ch'in-ling Shan, Ming Shan, and Ta-pa Shan) has the following main species: pine (*Pinus*), cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), China fir (*Cunninghamia*), cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), oak, beech (*Fagus*), ash, and tung oil tree (*Aleurites fordii*). On the southern slopes of the mountains, there is much bamboo growth.

2. In the Nan Shan region (Nan Shan and Paman Shan), the best forests are located in the mountainous basin of the Min River (Fukien Province); from there timber goes to many points in China through Foochow, Wenchow, and partly through Hankow. Such coniferous species as China fir, Japan cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*), cypress, and pine predominate; deciduous trees include cherry laurel, tung oil tree, mulberry (*Morus*), camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*), walnut, oak, maple, plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*), and others. Bamboo (*Bambusa*) grows especially profusely there.

3. The southern region is the most heavily forested area of China proper, but its importance up to now has been purely local in nature because of poor transportation facilities and the high costs of moving timber out. The best forests are found in the basin of the Yuan River, which with its tributaries flows through the heavily forested southwestern part of Yunnan Province and the forested adjoining part of Kweichow Province. Species include China fir, cypress, larch (*Larix*), pine, oak, camphor tree, tung oil tree, mulberry, cherry (*Litsea sebifera*), dhak tree (*Butea frondosa*), magnolia (*Magnolia*), camellia (*Camellia japonica*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron*), and rosewood.

Taiwan is a mountainous province. At 2,900 and more meters above sea level, coniferous, especially fir, trees predominate, while at 1,500-2,900 meters such conifers as cypress, Japan cedar (several kinds), and hemlock (*Tsuga*) occur almost exclusively. At 800-1,500 meters above sea level, subtropical and tropical deciduous trees include the camphor tree.

In Tibet, only the mountain foothills are forested; in these forests, conifers predominate. Cedar, pine, birch, tamarisk, poplar, willow, and other trees grow on the banks of streams.

In Sinkiang, which is largely desert, forests are also found only in the foothills and river valleys. Spruce is the principal conifer, while deciduous trees are birch, poplar, saxaul, and others. The Tien Shan are covered with dense forests in which oak, conifers, and cedar grow profusely and poplar and birch are encountered.

At present a planting program is being undertaken in China. In 1950, it is planned to plant 130 million trees in Hopen, Shansi, Chahar, and Suiyuan provinces. The people's governments of these provinces have created special committees to supervise planting and caring for these trees.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Industry

The woodworking industry of China is poorly developed. There are no large enterprises but only small shops with primitive equipment for making things out of wood. The most important branches of the Chinese woodworking industry are sawmilling, boxmaking, match manufacture, and furniture production.

Sawmills are located mostly in the cities. Shanghai has 11, Tsingtao six; others are located in Tientsin, Dairen, Ma-tan-chiang, Tung-hua, and elsewhere.

There are box factories and shops in many cities, especially the port cities. In addition to boxes, they make oak barrels for transporting tung oil and spruce barrels for transporting cement.

There are more than 100 match factories in China: 20 of these are in Manchuria, 80 in China proper. Shanghai has 15, Tsingtao 13, Canton 10, and Tientsin 6.

The furniture factories are mostly small enterprises; there are no large establishments. Shanghai has three, and Tientsin, Tsingtao, and Harbin one each. The Shanghai and Tientsin factories produce furniture from domestic woods; only an insignificant part of their product is made of imported wood.

At present the woodworking industry of China, heavily damaged by the civil war and by the Japanese, is being restored with the aid of the Soviet Union.

Among the large consumers of wood products are the coal mines of northeast China. Likewise, a huge railroad-construction program, for which great quantities of ties and lumber are needed, is now being developed in China.

According to customs figures, China imported the following quantities of timber products for the years indicated (in 1,000 cubic meters):

Type	1913	1929	1936	1937	1947	1948
Lumber						
Coniferous	380	1,260	370	200	130	70
Deciduous	80	145	20	20	6	9
Ties	125	70	155	115	196	239
Saw logs and other types	<u>715</u>	<u>905</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>411</u>
Total	1,300	2,380	1,040	685	573	729

Before World War II, imports came mostly from the US, Canada, and Japan. The main entrance ports for timber shipments are Shanghai, Tientsin, and Canton. These ports are large consumers of timber products themselves, and are distribution centers for transshipment by rail and, especially by inland waterway.

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL